

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-28 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended and claims 27 and 28 are added.

Claims 1-15, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Dubuit (U.S. Patent No. 6,397,740). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dubuit discloses a printing machine having one or more silk-screen printing stations 14 and at least one ink jet printing station 15. To perform a digital printing phase, the whole silk-screen printing station (not the sole printing bridge) must be replaced by a whole digital printing station 15. As such, Dubuit does not teach or disclose means to install and means to control the mobile printing bridge to transform it from a screen printing station to a digital printing station, or vice versa, as recited in claim 1. Support for the language to amended claim 1 can be found in page 3, lines 27-28 of the description as originally filed.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

New claims 27 and 28 are presented for the Examiner's consideration. Dubuit does not teach or suggest a station for applying one or more substances to a substrate, comprising at least one mobile printing bridge which is convertible between a digital mode and a silk-screen mode (claim 27). Similarly, Dubuit does not teach or suggest that at least one of the stations in the machine which has a plurality of such stations is convertible from a screen printing mode to a digital printing mode, or vice versa. This subject matter is supported at least in the original specification, e.g., page 4, lines 18-20.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all the claims are patentable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.


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Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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